

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DLOS-09 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5472
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

UNCLAS MADRID 08466

COPENHAGEN FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: EFIS. SP
SUBJECT: EMBARGO ON YELLOWFIN TUNA

REF: MADRID 5810

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NOTE VERBALE DATED JULY 13 FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SPANISH FLAG VESSELS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC. COPY OF NOTE AND EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION POUCHED TO OES/OFA/FA ON JULY 24.

2. THE NOTE STATES THAT THE "ISABEL V", THE ONLY SPANISH FLAG TUNA FREEZER BOAT OPERATING IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC TAKES THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO AVOID KILLING DOLPHINS:
-- USE OF SMALLER MESH IN THE UPPER PART OF THE NETS SO THAT THE DOLPHINS DO NOT BECOME ENTANGLED AND DROWN.
-- USE OF THE "BACKWARD TECHNIQUE" TO SUBMERGE A SECTION OF FLOATS SO THAT THE DOLPHINS MAY ESCAPE WHEN THE NET IS BEING DRAWN IN.
-- TRAINING THE CREW, AND THE USE OF SMALL FAST BOATS TO HELP THE DOLPHINS ESCAPE.

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3. THE NOTE STATES THAT SPAIN HOPES TO EXPORT APPROXIMATELY 15,000 TONS OF SKIPJACK AND 5,000 TONS OF YELLOWFIN TO THE U.S. IN 1978. IT ADDS THAT LESS THAN 50 DOLPHINS WERE KILLED DURING THE 1977 SEASON AND ESTIMATES THE TOTAL IN 1978 TO BE 10-15. FISHING FOR TUNA TRAVELING WITH DOLPHINS OCCURS ONLY DURING THREE MONTHS OF THE

YEAR. THE REST OF THE TIME, FISHING IS DONE IN AREAS WHERE THERE ARE NO DOLPHINS.

4. THE NOTE ADDS THAT ON-BOARD INSPECTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED TO VERIFY THESE PROCEDURES AND THAT SPAIN IS STUDYING VARIOUS PROVISIONS TO PROTECT MARINE MAMMELS, ALONG THE LINES OF THE U.S. SYSTEM.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IF THIS INFORMATION IS SUFFICIENT TO GRANT AN EXEMPTION FOR IMPORT OF SPANISH CAUGHT YELLOWFIN TUNA. TODMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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